1838 – 39
(L. B)

File no 1.
Sls. 1–6

Works on the Agamber Grant

Indexed
Dn

Mysore Commr.s Office

No. 928.

To,

The Acting Supt.t of Surgeon

Sir,

541

I Do acknowledging the receipt of your Letter No.n 212 of the 21st Ultimo I have the honor by desire of the Commissioner to acquaint you that an application was transmitted to the Government of Fort St George on the 29th Ultimo for the Services of Captain Power being made available to superintending the repair of the road from Burghur to the Ogumbay Ghat through Seemogah, until the season shall admit of the Work on the Ghat being renewed

I

2 The reply of the Govern-
-ment shall be duly for-
-warded for your inform-
-tion. —

Bangalore
4th July 1838.

I have &c
Sd/ M. Clarke
Offg Sec.

1838

No 128

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Mysore Commrs Office.

No. 1717.

To

The Acting Superintendent
of Nuggur

No. 512

..Adverting to the annexed copy of a letter from Captain Bower Supt. of the Agumbee Ghaut; I have the honor to state that you have his authority to carry into effect the measure therein proposed of moving the Convicts from Seemogah on the 1st Proximo Should you concur with Captain B in the expediency of it. or whenever it may appear to you advisable, with reference to the State of the weather.-

* 2d Ly Wing H. Regt

Answered to this Letter

Bangalore
21st September 1838

I have &c

1838 / 113

Lt

The Actg Supt.
Ft Livingston.

Dated 27th September
Recd 24th September

Inclosed Copy of a
letter from Captain
Powers Superintt of
the Cherokees Shaut
ing authority to the Cen:
-sus taking Officers under
his Charge to be in the 1st Prox.
agreeably to Captain
Powers's instruction.—

No 440

563

To The Officiating Secretary
to the Commissioner for the Govt
of the Territories of the Rajahship
Mysore

Sir

In forwarding for the purpose of being laid before the Commissioner copy of a letter from Captain Bowers I take the opportunity to enclose a Memorandum shewing the monthly expense of the Establishment with the Convicts employed under that Officer in the construction of the road on the Agumbey pass.

2. It will be observed that the whole of the Jail Peons is employed on that duty, my reason for so employing it, is that the Convicts under Captain Bowers superintendence work as well, as

as the best paid labourers while those at Sheemoga under native superintendence do not work one third so well. Therefore purpose, should the Commissioner approve of it, to continue to send out to Captain Bower all Convicts sentenced to above four months imprisonment.

3 The Barr was furnished before I adopted the plan of employing the whole Rifsala at Assumbuy which has rendered so large a party of it in my opinion unnecessary, but before I withdraw part of it I shall consult Captain Bower. This guard might probably be entirely dispensed with if the men of the Asham Rifsala were furnished by Government with light Muskets or Carabins and a small supply of Ball Cartridges. I think that if so provided & obliged to furnish themselves with good Coorg Horses they would not only be the best description of men to guard Convicts

but

but be found particularly useful if employ-
ed in pursuit of robbers or in event of
disturbances breaking out in the jungly
parts of this or the neighbouring Provinces.

4. The Doroghar Mahdee Bon though a respectable man is not of much use where he is, on the contrary Captain Bower has told me that he would be happy to get rid of him, I would therefore recommend that as he is fit for the situation of a Serishtadar or Peishcar an opportunity be taken to provide for him in that way, and that the Mutsudy, Ocha Nack, be appointed Doroghar on a reduced salary of 15 Rupees. An intelligent Mussalman now with Captain Bower would make a good Mutsudy, Should this arrangement be approved of, I should also venture to suggest that the whole or part of the saving namely 10 Rupees be added to the pay of

the

the Shaikeem who I believe to be a very attentive and deserving man..

5. With reference to Captain Powers proposal to entertain from 50 to 80 Camalies I would venture to suggest that instead of paying Canara labourers 2 Annas 6 pie daily or Rupies 4-11-0 a month, 200 men of this Division be entertained, I think so many can in this season of scarcity be procured in a few days and where so many people are in want of food and employment as there now are in this Division in consequence of the failure of the Crops, it is certainly only charitable to find employment for them if we can; and one great advantage of having men of this Division in our monthly pay is that they would immediately assist the peons in event of any attempt of the prisoners to break from their guards, which however I am happy to say is very unlikely to occur..

out of 244 Convicts now at Aquenbay 16 are sick

6. Allowing what I believe to be the case that the Convicts at Aquenbay work as well as Canarese Cules it will appear that Convict labour is the cheaper of the two if we only deduct the pay of the guard & Barr as here shewn.

		Rs ap
Asham Risala Establishment		503 - " "
Dorey's Establishment deducting Camalies		59.
250 Convicts food Clothing Batta & about		400
Average expenditure of Tents & Hutting		20 -
	Total	982. -
250 Canara labourers at 4 - 11. - per mensem.		1171. 5 -
250 Camalies at 3 - 8 - " per do		875 - -
Difference of Convicts less than Canara labourers		189. 5
Difference of Camalies less than Convicts		107. - "

7 Being fully persuaded that

under the Superintendence of a European Officer in addition to what Convicts must cost the Government, a very trifling expenditure when compared with the advantages of good roads, would in a very few years suffice to make excellent roads all over this Division. The most requisite and which ought first to be made is a road from Hurryhur to the Agumbay pass, and after this is completed one from Cudaloor to the boundary on the Ghaut leading from Salgar down to Guersappa in Canara. And being also fully persuaded that a considerable increase of revenue would almost immediately result from their completion.

I trust I may be allowed to request you will submit to the Commissioner a roll, as per margin, of what I would venture strongly to recommend as an Establishment to be kept up under the Superintendence of a European Officer

4 Iron Smiths @ 7 Rupees each 28-- --
2 Camaty Hobladars @ 5 Ditto 10- --
4 Buffadors @ 4 Rund 16- --
90 Camaties @ 3½ Rund 315- --
Total Rs. 369- --

Officer without whose management I consider that all attempts to get much work out of Convicts will be found a throwing away of time and their services.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient Servant

A Macleod

Off.g Superintendent

Nuejgar Division

Superintendent's Office

Inanta Point 15th December 1838

1838

From
Hunting Lupton
& Sturgeon.

Dated 15th December
Rec'd 19-3

Forwards Copy of Letter
from Collins Bowen &
Bostock & Director shewing
the Instructions Expence &
the Estab^t with the Contents
Imbodied under that
Plan in the Co. Situation
of the Coast Mutter Eyre
& Sam Pitt. —

No 31

To

The Acting Superintendent
Nuggur Division
Mysore

Sir,

Having been informed that shortly an opportunity will offer of procuring Labourers from below the Ghaut for the purpose of being employed above the Frontier. I have the honor to request you will be pleased to solicit the sanction of the Commissioner for the Government of the Affairs of the Rajah of Mysore, should he see no objection for the Amildar of Sirthurly and Mundagudda to be directed to pay those who may be so employed.

Mr Blair the Principal Collector in Canara has fixed the rate of daily hire for those employed below the Frontier at 2 annas 6 pie which rate I take the liberty to suggest should be paid to those employed on the Mysore division of the Pass.

I am given to understand that many able bodied men are to be procured at

Sheemoga

Thoungoa at the rate at which the Kamar-
-ties are paid viz.t 3 Rupees 8 annas per mensem
I trust it will not be considered presumptu-
-ous in me in submitting for the consideration
of the Commissioner that from 50 to 80 of those
men be enterlained as Kamarties to be em-
-ployed with the convicts on the Pass and eventual
-ly in reforming the road between this place and
Hurryhur it appears to me that this will ob-
-viate the uncertainty of procuring hired Labour
-ers, particularly at a time when the Riots are
employed in the cultivation of their Fields.

The intrenching Tools I now have
with me are sufficient to employ 200 Labourers
independent of the convicts but as they are lia-
-ble to be rendered unserviceable for a time; I
shall feel obliged by your obtaining for me a
further supply of 50 Pick-axes and 80 Mamoties.

I have &c.a
Signed/ H. Bower
Capt.n 52.d Reg.t
Supt.t of the Agumbay pass

Camp Agumbay
December 6.th 1838

(True Copy)
A Macleod
Off.g Superint.t

No 326 Seramut Office in Mysore

Report on the state of the works at the Aramby Ghaut.

The accompanying sketch will best explain the progress which has been made in the new Ghaut. Owing to certain modifications of which the Zig-Zag have been found susceptible the total length of the Ghaut may be curtailed from 5 to about 4 1/2 miles, without making the slope in any part above 1 in 15. Of the 4 1/2 miles one and three quarters has been made (with the exception of the drains) on the Canara side while one mile has been made on the Mysore side and I have every expectation that the new Ghaut will be entirely opened by the next rains, to which 4 months may be reckoned on at an expense of 30,000 Rs

The rock near the head of the line has occasioned much more trouble than I had before anticipated, it extends for 500 feet and up to the present date about 3,000 blasts (of which a list is kept) have been expended in overcoming this obstacle alone the side of the Mountain being covered with the fragments which

which have been thrown off. It will take 20 days more to have done with the rock, when there will be little more difficulty in finishing the road than may be presented by the rock at the boundary, which it is intended to avoid as much as possible.

I am extremely pleased at the appearance of the road, which will be every thing I had hoped and undoubtedly a great blessing to the Merchants and others trafficking between the two provinces, entirely doing away with the clog, or hinderance to commerce which has hitherto existed in the necessity of carrying down on Men's heads, at an expensive Coolly hire, all bulky or valuable goods.

The road from the Coquimbay bungalow to the head of the Ghaut measuring exactly one mile has been made on a new line entirely by the Buggar prisoners, and is in every respect as good a road as can be desired, being 30 feet wide and very nearly level, which is not at all the character of the old road it has superseded. Two or

†Certain imports into Canara paid 905 Rupees in this manner from June 30th 1836 to 1st July 1837 as follows.

611 Bullock loads Cotton Wool.
114 Do. Do. Yarn.
1085 Do piece goods.
Total — 1810 at ½ Rupee per load Rs. 905.

three places on which are as bad as any part of the old Ghaut. In framing an estimate of the value of the Convict labour performed at Aquum by, it is necessary to include the mile above alluded to, with the mile on the Ghaut, making two miles which the prisoners have executed unaided. Of the 3000 blasts with the exception of 295 made by the Lascarees, the prisoners made the whole and this is a very fatiguing description of work each jumper weighing from 28 to 30 lbs. The earth work on the upper part of the Ghaut where the prisoners are stationed has proved much severer labour than has fallen to the lot of the Canara working party, owing to the soil being harder - and a deeper cut being in general required above than below, as will be easily understood; indeed, for a short distance the cut is greater than I have ever before seen on any Ghaut.-

The time the prisoners work is from 8 to 4 O'Clock including the going to and returning from the Ghaut - 1/2 an hours rest being allowed at Midday when the sun strikes very

very hot upon the Ghaut. They appear to labor with good will and in the opinion of the Superintendent of the Ghaut each prisoners daily work is equivalent to $\frac{4}{5}^{ths}$ of that of a Canarese and at the jumper the prisoner is not inferior to the hired labourer, particularly if the latter has been before unaccustomed to the use of the implement.

The daily allowance to a prisonir consists of one Seer of rice and two pies of the value of the sixth of an anna, with which to purchase Chillies, Salt &c. the latter it has been represented to me is insufficient (where these necessaries are expensive) to render their food palatable. The Canara Convicts are said to be allowed three pies each in addition to the Seer of rice at Mangalore and other comparatively cheap places and perhaps when it is known how well the Huggur gang has behaved, and the cheerfulness and alacrity with which the prisoners work they may in future while employed in the Ghauts be allowed 3 or 4 pies each, the latter being of $\frac{1}{3}^{rd}$ of an anna, which

I

I should be very glad to see a sanitorium as would the Superintendent of the Ghaut. The indulgence could only be solicited for on the above grounds for as far as the nature of their present employment and the being sent into the Ghaut Country goes, they considered it any thing but a grievance, and were mostly anxious for such a destination. - Two individuals whose term of imprisonment has expired continue at their own request to receive employment on the Ghaut as Coolies. Since Captain Briver took charge of the gang there has not been a single escape, or even attempt at it.

There is, I am happy to say, but little sickness among the prisoners, from 13 to 15 being the daily average number of the hospital patients (out of a gang of 275) and these chiefly slight cases, such as itch, wounds from accidents. Vide appendix 2 deaths only have taken place since the arrival of the party at Aqumby, four months ago, and both deceased arrived at the Station in a weakly state.

The Hakeem is considered very attentive to his duties and perhaps the trifling sickness

sickness which only obtains may in no inconsiderable degree be attributed to his exertions. Captain Bower wishes me to submit for consideration as 14 Rupees is the established Salary for Inducive and attendance to a Hatteem attached to a gang of 150 prisoners whether he might not be allowed something further in the shape of head money, when his charge happens to be nearly doubled.-

Independent of the prisoners there is a party of 80 Cumatees recently entertained and Captain Bower is now of opinion, in which I concur, that it is very desirable to increase their number to 100, with a further addition of two Duffadars on Rupees 4½ each.- He would then feel the more confident of completing the Mysore portion of the ghaut within the present season.- The pay of the Cumatees is one Pagoda per Mensem. and I am not sure that the Sirkar would not find its account in making it up to Rupees 4 per Mensem, considering that the low Country ghaut Coolies receive 5 Rupees and those employed on the Sumpegy 6 Rupees, of which facts the Cumatees are very well aware. It is true the old established pay of a Cumatee is one Pagoda

only

only or even less but then the duty to be performed under the native system was of lax exaction, and but occasional occurrence, admitting of the inividual cultivatory his lands and looking after his private concerns. Very different from this is now the situation of the agumby Ca. matees who are removed from their Villages and families, and have no opportunity to attend to any thing but the ghaut. The following question then suggests itself. Is the state under these circumstances likely to obtain the services of the ablest bodied men and if not, would it not be advisable to make it worth while for individuals of the latter description to seek for employment. It is quite certain that the Canarees as present entertained though by no means bad workmen, will not stand a comparison with the 5 Rupee Coorees employed on the Canara portion of the ghaut.

I assumed in my former report upon the agumby Ghaut that 2000 Rupees per mile would be the probable cost of opening the new line, in one season, and though the smallness

smallness of the sum total for the entire ghaut
Viz: Rupees 10,000 for which sanction was ap-
plied, has surprised every body who has heard of
it, yet it would have been more perhaps much
more than sufficient had circumstances permit-
ted the employment of the Canara party of prison-
ers at the foot of the ghaut, and as it is the
Estimate will not be much out.- It seems to
me from the observations I have made that a
gang of 250 prisoners aided by a party of
100 Cumatees and 10 Wood Cutters are capable
of making one mile of road on an ordinary
ghaut in two months.- I have however, re-
quested a particular experiment may be
made on this point, but if the data be correct
we may in future calculate on opening
ghaut communications in general with
250 prisoners at an additional expense of
not more than Rupees 1000 per mile, having
the same executed in two months.

A good quantity of tools be-
longing to the Sirkar have been made
up for this work and as they will not be
expended

extended for years they should be chargeable to the different works to which they may be made available. If however paid for out of the Agumby sanctioned Estimate they will enable the State to undertake the improvement of other ghauts hereafter at a proportionably less expence I did not find a grindstone in Store, but the necessity which exists for one I as brought to notice in my letter to the Superintendent of the Huggur Division about a year ago I is more than ever apparent.

In conclusion I deem it but just to Captain Bower to state that all the good results which I before anticipated would attend the employment of an Officer in Superintending the Works at Agumby have been fully realized and that the cordiality and brotherly spirit which evidently pervade all ranks under his orders can only be attributed to his judicious management I have indeed every reason to congratulate myself on having so zealous and fit a person to carry my designs into effect.

Signed/ C. Green.
Sup: M. Dep: C:

Bangalore
21st February 1839.

Jail Hospital Report.

	1838 October		1838 November		1838 December		1839 January		1839 February	
	Sick		Sick		Sick		Sick		Sick	
1st	"		16.		21.		17.		39.	18. x.
2nd	"		16.		21.		15.		38.	18.
3rd	"		16.		17.		15.		37.	18.
4th	"		16.		19.		17.		37_	18.
5th	"		15.		21.		18.		37_	18.
6th	"		17.		22.		18.		38_	16.
7th	"		16.		22.		17.		38_	14.
8th	"		16.		21.		18.		32.	14.
9th	"		12.		16.		17.		33_	14
10th	"		12.		13.		17.		33_	14.
11th	"		12.		11.		17.			
12th	"		15.		15.		18.			
13th	7		14		17.		18.			
14th	7.		13.		18.		12			
15th	7.		14.		18.		14.			
16th	7.		12.		21.		14.			
17th	7.		15.		18.		18.			
18th	7.		15.		17.		18.			
19th	7.		16.		14		19.			
20th	16.		14.		14		18.			
21st	16.		15.		14		17.			
22nd	7.		16.		14		20.			
23rd	7.		17.		10		19.			
24th	12.		18.		16.		25_	4 x.		
25th	10		18		17.		27_	4		
26th	11		16.		16.		26_	4		
27th	10.		23.		20.		26_	4.		
28th	10.		24		19.		36_	18.		
29th	9.		19.		19.		37.	18.		
30th	11.		19.		17.		39.	18.		
31st	14		"		17.		39_	8.		
Total	182.		479.		535.		646.			

N.B. The numbers marked x. are men admitted in Hospital to be Vaccinated who should be deducted from the sick list.

True Copy

Asst. Secretary

To 515

The Officiating Secretary
to the Commissioner for the Government
of the Territories of the Rajah
of Mysore

Sir

I have the honor to request you will be pleased to solicit the Commissioners permission for the withdrawal of the Shimoga Convicts from the Agumbee Ghaut by the 25th Instant.

The Kamarties not being subject to that inconvenience, which Convicts are on the March, from occasional rains, which usually, for some days, precede the setting in of the Monsoon. I beg to request, that in the event of its holding off beyond the 25th inst. I may be allowed to retain their services on the Ghaut until such time as, from personal observation, I may deem it necessary to withdraw them

This last request is solely made with a view to completing, if pos-

=sible, the Mysore line of Road this Season -

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obt Servant
H Bower Capt
52 D Regt
Supt Works Agumbee Ghaut

Agumbee
May 14th 1834

139

From
Captain Bowie
52d. Regt. N.I.
& Superintendt
of the Agunda
Pah.

Dated 7th May.
Rec'd. 20th

Requests permission to withdraw the Sawoga recruits from the Agunda Guard by the 25th inst. and should the rains hold off beyond that date to retain the services of the Kamotis until such time as it may become necessary to withdraw them.—

No 586

To the Secretary to the Commissioners
for the Government of the Territories
of the Rajah of Mysore

Sir

With reference to my letter
of the 14th Inst and the receipt of
your reply, this day, conveying the
Commissioners sanction to the
measures proposed by me. I
have the honor to report for the
information of the Commissioners
that the setting in of the Monsoon
has completely frustrated the
hopes I had entertained of finishing
the Mysore Line of Road this season

On the 16th Instant at 11 A M
it came on with great violence,
lasting the whole of that day with
unabated fury, it cleared up at 8 P M
On the 17th at 1 P M it again came
on with equal fu- e and lasted

till the following Morning; On the 18th it commenced at ½ past 2 P.M. lasting until 6 A.M. of the 19th. at ½ past 2 P.M. of the 19th it again set in but with less violence, and without cessation lasted till the Morning of the 23rd since which it has been fair.

I am sorry to state that from the great steepness of the Face of the Mountain, and the force with which the Rain fell that a considerable quantity of Earth has been washed down, on the 2nd time from the Top, this I have on a great measure removed by the assistance of the Convicts: the 4th time has also occasioned some ingress to the extent of 25 feet in length -

I have this day sent to Mr. the Convicts employed on the

I shall move the Company towards Chumpa on a day or two. The Company on No 100 I have discharged paying them their full Months here which they not due to them by 4 days. I have taken the liberty of giving them to enable them to reach their respective Villages I respectfully hope will meet with the Commanders approval

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obt Servant
H Bower Capt
52nd Regt N.I.
Supt Kyanzah Corps

Kyaukbee
May 25th
1839.

1839

From
Captain Bowen
2nd Regt R.I.
Dept. of the Cumberland
Camp

Decr 25th
Rec'd 31st

Referring to his letter of the 14th inst. reporting the [illegible] of the Indians has completely frustrated the object in having entertained a communication from the Mayor & Citizens of Knoxville desiring to state that he has this day left the Country [illegible]